

# SECC Meeting

November 17, 2016

## Present:

Terry Spring-KWPX

Mark Allen-WSAB

Laura Goudreau-FEMA Region X

Keith Shipman-WSAB

Rafael Estevez-WA EMD LEP Coordinator

Roy Benavente-WA MIL Dept

Scott Miller-Yakima County LECC Chair

Clay Freinwald-SECC Chair

## Phone:

Phil Johnson-CPS LECC Chair

Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle

Francis Burkhart-Whatcom County

Brian Calvert-Benton County

John Kasprick-SBE

Dale Kloes-Skagit County

John Price-Mason/Thurston LECC Chairman

Arthur Willetts-KWDK

Alex Brewster-Comtek Services

John Mackey-Bicoastal Media

Penny Linterman-Clallam County

Clay Freinwald called the meeting to order and introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

On November 7, WEA test alerts were sent over the US Cellular network by mistake. At least some subscribers received multiple messages. This was part of system upgrade that didn't go quite as expected.

On October 20, the Inland Northwest LECC met. They are restarting and reorganizing after a change of personnel. The meeting was described as a very educational meet and greet.

Yakima is still working on the update of their local plan.

There have been many updates to the state plan lately. They are normally distributed on the remailer. Check your state plans against the latest TAB 31 to make sure it is up to date. See <http://mil.wa.gov/other-links/emergency-alert-system-eas-state-plan> and click on TAB 31.

If you have concerns and questions, PUT THEM ON THE REMAILER! Clay is still getting many emails about EAS. This is not Clay's show. Using the remailer allows the discussions and answers to benefit everyone.

TAB 10, monitoring assignments was discussed. As has been discussed before, the tab has been broken down into local areas. Yakima is now done. Columbia Basin, Okanogan and Kittitas still need to be done.

The National Weather Service Seattle office originated the October RMT in conjunction with the Great Northwest Shakeout. The test was delayed because the tsunami warning originated in Alaska did not arrive on time. Audio was a little noisy because of the need for a complete rewire of their audio system. This can start when they receive permission to remove the old weather radio console. There has

been some work done on the UHF radio links which has helped improve their audio.

The Washington State Association of Broadcasters is working on getting first informer legislation passed in Washington State. This would be similar to what has been passed in Oregon. This would allow engineering techs to have access to studio and transmitter sites during emergencies. A credentialing system would be created and a test required to participate. The goal is to be proactive but respectful of the job that fire and police have to do. Mark Allen is lobbying the legislature. If they are successful, all of the Pacific Northwest will have this legislation. This will allow stations to stay on the air during emergencies. Fuel for generators will also be addressed. The Oregon legislation allows a fuel truck to accompany the technician. Information about this legislation has been posted on the remailer. The WSAB wants this done soon, preferably this coming session.

The last Central Puget Sound RMT failed. Some entities do not take their testing responsibilities seriously. This creates problems for the stations that have times scheduled for the tests. Participation in EAS is voluntary for the originators. Washington is a home rule state. The state cannot force the local governments to do anything. In October, the originator was supposed to be Jefferson County, but they were unable to originate the test. The state EOC is always willing to be a backup originator, but they have to be asked. Somewhere along the way the process broke down so there was no test originated. Phil Johnson, as LECC chair, knew of the impending problem, but had no authority to do anything about it. A procedure is needed for the LECC chairs to be able to contact the state in situations like this, or the authority to contact another entity to arrange for an RMT origination.

The SECC needs to emphasize to the counties the importance of testing the system and the importance of following the published schedule.

Participation by the originators is voluntary. We need to encourage them and offer to help them as needed.

Arlene Hand is still working on TAB 2, LECC Chairs and County EMD Officials. Besides trying to keep up with the changes, she is still missing some names. Please respond to her requests for information or help her out in any way you can.

The legacy Local Relay Networks should be kept in operation. Some of them have gone away. In some cases the people who maintain them retire or just forget about them. They are needed for backup. Some have been replaced by the internet. The internet would likely go down in a major disaster. Amateur radio could be a great resource for keeping these systems in operation.

The next meeting will be on January 19 at 9:30 AM at Camp Murray.